METEOROLOGICAL PECULIARITIES OF NEW ENGLAND.

By William F. Channing, M. D.

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For twenty years I have noticed an invariable coincidence between the appearance of ice in quantity on the Newfoundland Banks or neighborhood, and an unusual, often constant rainfall in New England. This rainfall appears to be in proportion generally to the amount of ice, and it is followed, I think always, by a dry period, perhaps a drought of several weeks, the drought apparently having some proportion to the excess of previous rainfall.

The appearance of ice on the Banks or neighborhood varies in different years, from April to June, and the wet spring and summer drought are early or late accordingly. Many years the quantity of ice is small and the disturbance of the rainfall is hardly noticeable. I am aware how many observations are required to establish a meteorological law for any part of the earth's surface. I therefore only venture to ask attention to these coincidences.

There is another obvious peculiarity in the meteorology of the New England coast, due to its geographical position. The projection of Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island into the Ocean may be compared to a nose on the Atlantic profile of the country. It happens hence that storms following a course parallel with the coast, but either just inside or outside the coast line, will in the one case pass entirely inside the projecting shore of New England, and in the other, sweep over Eastern New England, without warning, while the rest of the country enjoys average clear weather. From these two proceedings, land storms passing inside, and sea storms extending over the coast from Cape Ann to New London, it results that the weather predictions are more frequently falsified over this region than perhaps on any other part of the coast or interior. And yet no part of the American Coast is more densely thronged with vessels in both the coasting and foreign trade.

It would seem desirable, for the study of the ocean storms, which sometimes thus touch New England, (as well probably as Hatteras), to extend the Signal Service to the Bermudas (by a special cable) and also to Nantucket, and generally to extreme outlaying points on the coast.